

### **REMARKS**

After entry of the subject Preliminary Amendment, claims 1-16, 18-24, and 35-40 remain in the application with claim 1 in independent form. More specifically, in this Amendment, claims 24 and 36 have been amended, claims 17, 25-34 and 41-50 have been cancelled, and claims 1-16, 18-23, 35, and 37-40 remain unchanged. The specification has been amended to state the claim of priority in addition to the claim of priority which is stated on Transmittal Form PTO-1390. Should the Examiner have any questions, please contact the undersigned attorney.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge our deposit account no. 08-2789 for any additional fees or credit the account for any overpayment.

Respectfully submitted,

**HOWARD & HOWARD ATTORNEYS, P.C.**

Date: September 15, 2006

/David M. LaPrairie/

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